

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of the allowability of claims 13-32 in the above-noted Official Action. In this regard, Applicant notes that the outstanding Official Action did not indicate the allowability of claim 33; however, the outstanding Official Action did not indicate any rejection of claim 33. Accordingly, Applicant notes that the present Response is written based upon the belief that claim 33 is considered allowable by the Examiner.

In the above-noted Official Action, claims 1-3 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over ENDOH et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,103) in view of DAVISON (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,146). Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over ENDOH in view of DAVISON, and further in view of KAPLOW et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,202,041). Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over ENDOH in view of PLUNK, and further in view of MAHONEY et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,659,639). Claims 13-32 were indicated as allowable. The status of claim 33 was not addressed, as noted above.

Upon entry of the present amendment, Applicant will have cancelled claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. In view of the herein-contained response, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the above-noted rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of

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all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that cancellation of claims 1-12 should not be considered an indication of Applicant's acquiescence with the rejection thereof.

Applicant may submit claims similar to claims 1-12 in a continuation application, and believes that such claims are allowable over the combination of references applied in the outstanding Official Action. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding Official Action does not establish a proper motivation to combine the combination of references applied therein against claims 1-12. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged motivation to combine references "in order to generate a realistically three dimensional view of the object" is not present in the applied references. For example, ENDOH is not directed to the above-noted feature and does not contain any suggestion to incorporate such a feature. Additionally, DAVISON would not appear to benefit from modification with the relevant features of ENDOH. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application and obtain early allowance of the pending claims, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-12.

In any case, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-12 is moot in view of the cancellation thereof. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending (including claim 33).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

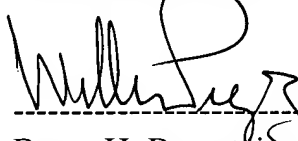
Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims in order to obtain early allowance of claims in the present application.

The cancellation of any claim in this amendment, which has not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

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